

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#4/Amend B  
a704  
9/1/0

Applicant: Ross A. Donnelly et al.

Assignee: Synopsys, Inc.

Title: MULTIPLE PASS OPTIMIZATION FOR AUTOMATIC  
ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT PLACEMENT

Serial No.: 10/016,232 File Date: December 6, 2001

Examiner: Magid Y. Dimyan Art Unit: 2825

Docket No.: SYN-0182

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Date: August 12, 2003

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION

**Initial Comments**

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,230,304 (Groeneveld).

Claims 1-20 are amended.